India as Corrupt Nation in Asia

†2881.SHRIKAPILSIBAL:

SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report published by Hong-Kong based Political and Economic Risk Consultancy Limited with regard to corruption in Asian countries;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that India is said to be second most corrupt nation in Asia as per report; and

(c) if so, the facts in this regard and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Yes, Sir. The Hong Kong based Political and Economic Risk Consulta; Limited (PERCL) coordinates a team of researchers and analysts in the ASEAN countries, greater China and South Korea. It provides consultancy to some of the leading corporations and financial institutions.

(b) The PERCL invited responses from expatriate businessmen about their perception of the prevailing corruption in 12 Asian countries. India was one of the 12 countries surveyed by PERCL.

(c) The Government is fully alive to the need to root out corruption and to ensure transparency in its dealings as far as possible to build confidence among general public and also foreign investors. Government has introduced checks and balances forbringing more accountability and for ensuring efficiency in administration. The Secretary of each Department assisted by Chief Vigilance Officer has been made responsible for ensuring probity and integrity in his Department. Government has also taken several measures to ensure transparency such as setting up of 90 Facilitation Centers, as on 1.12.2002 in various Ministries/De-partments/organization to provide information and assistance to the public regarding schemes and procedures of the organizations concerned. Also 71 Central Government organization have published Citizen's Charters reflecting the commitment of the concerned Ministries, Departments or agencies to provide services within the timeframe specified. Some Ministries and Departments have also developed their own websites for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

promotion of e-governance.The Freedom of Information Act, 2002 has been enacted for ensuring greater transparency, openness and accountability in the functioning of the public authorities.

Seminar on corruption cases investigated by CBI

2882. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR.T.SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre has decided to hold meeting of concerned officials on February 20, 2003 to discuss issues related to long-pending cases against public servants and also decided to give prosecution sanction in over 200 cases of corruption being investigated by Central Bureau of Investigation;

(b) if so, whether a three day seminar on effective ways to curb corruption was held recently;

(c) whether the seminar was jointly organized by CBI, Asian Development Bank and Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development and was attended by representatives of 14 countries, including India; and

(d) if so, what was the outcome of the seminar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) A meeting was convened on 20th February, 2003 to expedite sanctions for prosecution to CBI in the pending cases, adhering to the time limit of 3 months by the respective Ministries and to effectively monitor such sanctions.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The seminar was organized by Asian Development Bank and Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (ADB-OECD) Anti-Corruption initiative for Asia Pacific and Government of India. CBI Academy, Ghaziabad hosted the seminar. The seminar was attended by 29 delegates belonging to the countries of Asia/Oceana Region, including 4 delegates from India.

(d) Training of the "Trainers" of participating countries was done in the seminar with experience sharing, case studies related to prosecution in corruption offences in the respective countries.